

MIT urges court to consider impact of executive order on scholars & research

Area colleges argue that travel ban contradicts educational missions

By Anshula Gandhi
NEWS EDITOR

Following the executive order barring entry to the U.S. from several countries, MIT filed an *amicus curae* brief to provide the court with perspective on how the ban affects institutions of higher learning. Though a Seattle circuit court ruled that the ban could not be enforced, the debate surrounding the legality of the executive order is ongoing. MIT's *amicus* brief may be used to provide federal courts with perspective on the impact of the order. The brief intentionally did not present any legal arguments. "We

filed a friend of the court brief," Mark DiVincenzo, chief legal officer for MIT, said in an interview with *The Tech*. "We didn't make legal arguments — whether the order was constitutional or discriminatory. That's up to the parties in the lawsuit. What we wanted to do was make sure the judge, in making those legal decisions, understood the impact the decisions may be both long term and short term on universities." Asked about MIT's goal in filing the brief, DiVincenzo emphasized that the brief wasn't meant to simply argue against the execu-

Amicus, Page 3



DAMIAN BARABONKOV—THE TECH

The 21st annual European Career Fair hosted Universities and Companies from all over Europe last Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017.

CRISPR patent ruling has little effect in MIT laboratory setting

Faculty voices support for Zhang and patents in biotech after court decides highly-contested case in Broad's favor

By Drew Bent and Vivian Zhong
STAFF REPORTERS

Researchers at MIT maintained that the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board's Feb. 15 decision, which affirmed the Broad Institute's patent claims on using CRISPR-Cas9 technology to edit eukaryotic genomes, had little impact on future laboratory research. The PTAB decision agreed with the Broad's claim do not interfere with a broader patent filed by the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Vienna. MIT professor Feng Zhang, the young CRISPR leader at the Broad responsible for the patents, said he did not believe "the patent questions have slowed research at all." In an email to *The Tech*, he wrote he was "glad that it has not become a distraction," which he attributes in part to the commitment of scientists at various institutions wanting to further the field. "It's been a big topic for the media, but I don't think the academic community — at least my peers — are too focused on the details of this patent, since it doesn't prevent us from using CRISPR as a tool," Daniel Anderson, a professor of applied biology at MIT, said in a phone interview with *The Tech*. Anderson's lab was heavily involved with devel-

oping the mechanism for delivery of CRISPR components to target cells. For Zhang and other MIT professors, patents are a crucial part of the research and development process. "I believe that academic and other non-profit institutions have a responsibility to make licensing decisions that maximize patient benefit," Zhang said. He noted that his lab shares CRISPR tools through the non-profit Addgene for research. Phillip Sharp, an institute professor at the Koch Institute and a laureate of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, highlighted the role of patents in the development of pharmaceuticals: patents grant a "transient monopoly," he said, which helps justify the billions of dollars invested in biomedical research. Anderson agreed, adding that not enough attention has been paid to the power of patents to enable technology. For Robert Langer, an institute professor renowned for his work in drug delivery and one of the most cited bioengineering professors in history, patents do not typically present an issue. Sorting out intellectual property rights, he wrote in an email to *The Tech*, is a straightforward task even when other institutions are involved, and is handled efficiently and routinely by the MIT

Technology Licensing Office. The key financial stakeholders in PTAB's decision, aside from the institutions themselves, are the companies that have licensed CRISPR-Cas9 technology from the Broad or Berkeley, who stand to gain or lose millions of dollars. Editas Medicine, which licensed the Broad's patent, saw its stocks jump nearly 30 percent after the decision. Meanwhile, shares of CRISPR Therapeutics, which licensed patents from Berkeley professor Jennifer Doudna and University of Vienna professor Emmanuelle Charpentier, both of who declined to comment for this story, fell nearly 10 percent. Anderson co-founded CRISPR Therapeutics with Charpentier. The pending patent by Berkeley and the University of Vienna makes a claim to the use of CRISPR-Cas9 in all cell types. At the time the patent was filed, however, Doudna and Charpentier had only used CRISPR-Cas9 to cut genomes in test tubes. It remains unclear whether these broader patent claims will be granted, and what that would imply for the Broad's patents. Berkeley said in a statement that they were pleased that their patent applications can continue with the ending of the PTAB case.

CRISPR, Page 3

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DAMIAN BARABONKOV—THE TECH

MakeMIT hosted over 250 hackers last Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, in the Student Center for a day-long hackathon event.

IN SHORT
The MIT Energy Career Fair is today from 7 to 9 p.m. in Lobdell on the second floor of the student center.

Add date is next Friday, March 10. This is the last day to add classes, change classes to sophomore exploratory or junior/senior P/D/E, switch from listener to credit, and drop half-term subjects.

Applications for student groups to request UA Finboard funding for the spring will open March 8 at 5 p.m., and the deadline is March 22 at 11:59 p.m.

FERMAT'S LAST JOKE

We had a truly marvelous joke which this inside box is too narrow to contain.



FINISH LINE

MIT sports finishes strong. **SPORTS, p. 8**



FINAL JEOPARDY

Hear from the champion and memelord herself. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 4**

DOUBLE TAKE

Two art galleries explore perception. **ARTS, p. 5**

SECTIONS

Campus Life4
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WEATHER

Don't put away your winter clothing just yet

By Erik Lindgren
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

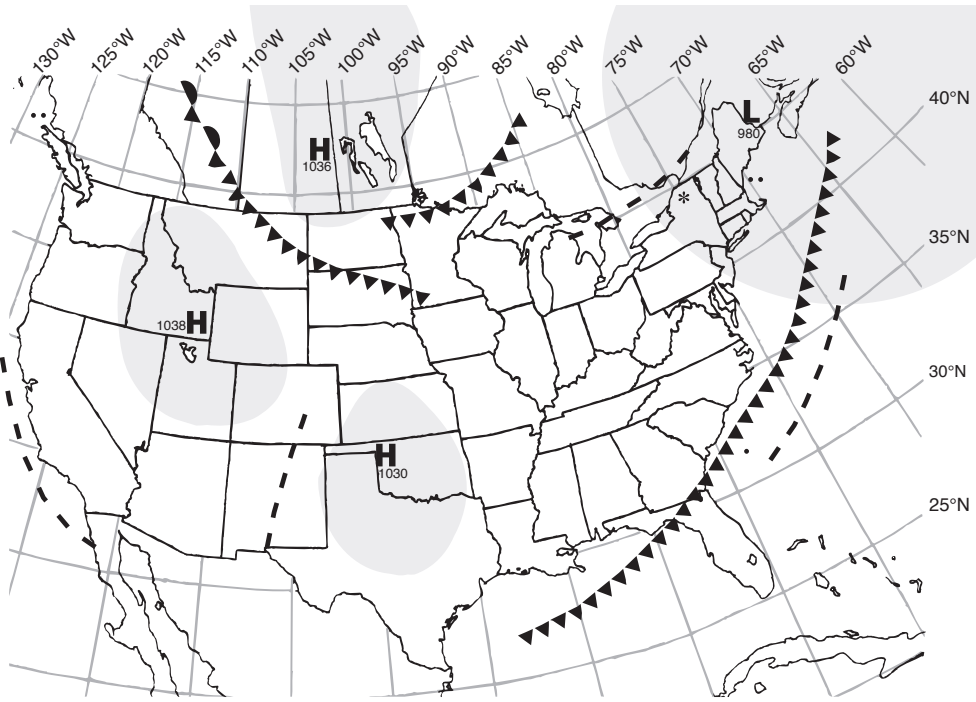
Last Friday (2/24) we experienced the warmest February day ever recorded in Boston: 73°F (23°C). For comparison, the climatological normal high temperature does not reach 73°F until June 5. We have experienced unseasonably warm weather since mid February, but we will be moving into climatologically cold temperature ranges during the end of this week. A cold front will sweep through the area on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, and westerly winds will make the temperature drop continuously throughout Thursday. There is a chance of showers during Thursday morning, but after that the skies will be mostly clear. Expect strong winds and gusts up to 50 mph.

The winds will shift to northwesterly during Friday, and bring us cold, Canadian air. There is a slight possibility we will experience some snow showers early Friday afternoon. The high temperature on Friday will be fairly normal for the year at 37°F (climatological high is 42°F), but the weekend will be cold. Expect low temperatures around 16°F during Friday night, and a Saturday high in the mid-20s. Saturday is also expected to feature northwesterly winds around 20 mph with 40 mph gusts, so dress warmly if you are going to be outside. Saturday night will also be cold with a low temperature in the mid-teens, but Sunday will be comparatively warm with a high temperature in the mid-30s. Both Saturday and Sunday are expected to be mostly sunny.

A low pressure system is likely to move up to our northwest on Sunday night and bring the high temperatures back to the 40s early next week, but it may also bring some rain.

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Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, March 2, 2017

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow: * Rain: ·	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Showers: ∇ Light: * Moderate: ** Heavy: ***	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front		∞ Haze
	◐ Stationary Front		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and windy with W winds at 25 mph and gusts up to 50 mph. High 45°F (7°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear, winds W at 10 mph. Low 26°F (-3°C).

Tomorrow: Slight chance of snow showers early afternoon, otherwise mostly sunny. Winds NW around 15 mph. High 37°F (°C).

Saturday: Mostly sunny and windy with a high around 26°F (-3°C). Winds NW around 20 mph and gusts up to 40 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 36°F (2°C).

Brief cites positive effect of int’l student perspectives

Amicus, from Page 1

tive order in the long-term. Rather, he believes each case was likely focused on providing short-term relief for the plaintiffs, who were temporarily detained. “You either had people detained at an airport, or unable to get on a plane,” DiVincenzo said. “In my opinion, the parties filed lawsuits much more to try to get relief from this order in an immediate fashion, rather than focusing on ultimately winning the case down the road.”

The brief argued that the order hampered the dissemination of knowledge and advancement of research, both critical to each school’s mission. The brief stated that after the order was passed, numerous academics expressed reluctance to accept faculty posi-

tions in the United States, and some scholars signed a petition to boycott conferences in the United States.

An MIT Class of 2021 pre-frosh from Syria, whose future at MIT is now uncertain, was quoted in the brief saying, “My dreams are basically ruined.”

The brief pointed out that international students have offered their peers diversity in perspectives. For example, Syrian students at MIT helped “contribute to their peers’ understanding of the wide-ranging consequences of the war in Syria in a way no textbook or lecture ever could.”

The brief also made financial arguments, stating that immigrants create startups that contribute to America’s GDP. For example, the brief states that if Abdul Fattah Jandali — Steve Jobs’ father — had

not been allowed to come to the U.S. from Syria, the American economy would be quite different.

MIT filed the brief in collaboration with several other Massachusetts colleges, including Harvard and Boston University.

“The situation was a little unique in that we knew the lawsuit was going to go at a very quick pace,” DiVincenzo said. “We had to work really fast and figure out what were the important issues we wanted to raise and how we could raise them succinctly in our brief.”

MIT, along with several colleges across the nation including the University of Chicago, Columbia, Princeton, and Stanford also filed another *amicus curae* brief for a New York federal district court ruling on the executive order.



ANSELMO CASSIANO—THE TECH

The MIT Brazilian and Hellenic Students’ Associations celebrated RIO-Patra: Brazilian-Greek Carnival Party Friday, Feb. 24 with internationally known samba and percussion group GROOVERSITY.

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UCB patent still pending, current claims likely too broad

CRISPR, from Page 1

“The Doudna/Charpentier patent application will be returned to the patent examiner, who previously determined that their patent application is allowable,” they wrote in the statement.

At the same time, Berkeley kept open the possibility of appealing the PTAB’s decision. The status of the patents also remains uncertain abroad, where Europe is facing similar questions.

The decision in the PTAB case, however, has left some legal scholars doubting the strength of UC Berkeley and the University of Vienna’s patent claims.

Jacob Sherkow, a professor at New York Law School who focuses on patent law in the biosciences, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the Patent and Trademark Office “will have the opportunity to require [Berkeley] to narrow their current patent claims in light of the decision last week.”

Sherkow believes that even if the Berkeley patent is awarded, it would be weak and hard to enforce. “Those claims will almost certainly suffer from problems of lack of written description or lack of enablement as detailed by the PTAB’s decision,” Sherkow said.

There remains the possibility, even if unlikely, that both parties’ patents are found to be valid. In this case, “overlap would possibly hurt companies who have already bet



ANSELMO CASSIANO—THE TECH

The Broad Institute, home of the Zhang lab.

on one horse in this horse race, who may then need to obtain a license from the other institution,” Sherkow said. He believes that academic research is unlikely to be affected, however.

Langer, Sharp, and Anderson all professed that they did not have in-depth understanding of the specifics of the patent dispute and PTAB’s decision. Langer asserted that it would take many weeks to properly examine the patent claims and make an informed evaluation of the patent decision, and Anderson was similarly reluctant to “make a statement about the patent decision basis.”

Sharp, on the other hand, was comfortable agreeing with PTAB’s appraisal that Zhang’s accomplish-

ment was not obvious and could not have been achieved by someone with ordinary skill in the subject. “It’s a major innovation,” he said. “Many things happen in a test tube, and when you go to translate that to a cell, frequently there’s interference.”

Sharp called Zhang a “wonderful guy, brilliant scientist” of whom he was “justifiably proud.” He later applied similar laudatory terms to Doudna.

Langer similarly praised Zhang for his work with CRISPR. Referencing the Canada Gairdner International Award that Zhang received in 2016, Langer said, “I have [not] done a detailed analysis on credit, but he would not have awards like that without doing very important work.”

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Dr Larry Ford, professor of physics at Tufts University, will present a skeptical view of claims of a divine creator of the universe, arguing that implications of classical and quantum physics, together with modern concepts in cosmology, provide a firmer basis to understand the origin and evolution of the cosmos than can be found in religious explanations.

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2017 The Tech. Printed by Turley Publications, Inc.

MIT’s spiciest memelord

Lilly Chin on her Jeopardy! victory



COURTESY OF JEOPARDY PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Lilly Chin '17 and Alex Trebeck on Jeopardy! College Championship.

Editor’s note: this article was transcribed and arranged by the editor from interviews with Lilly Chin '17, winner of 2017’s Jeopardy! College Championship.

Before I got on Jeopardy, I’d catch it on TV, but it wasn’t really a big part of my life. I did quiz bowl in high school, and way back in the day I tried out for teen tournament, but I don’t really remember that at all. This really only started with my GRT when I lived in Random, Phil Arevalo. He was on Jeopardy, so when the qualifying test came out, he was like, “Everyone should take the test, it’s online, it’s whatever,” so I was like, “Okay, I’ll do it.”

They have the test in October, and it’s only given at one time so that people can’t cheat by time zones. It was actually in the middle of class, so I was trying not to get caught by my teacher while also answering the questions very quickly, but I guess it worked out. I got invited to in-person auditions. I went to New York City in November. I got the call that I was on the show in December, and then January, first week of IAP, I was filming.

On TV, Jeopardy shows the question, and that fills the entire screen, and then it jumps to the three contestants, and then you see who buzzes in, and then it’s another shot of just the contestant, and then maybe a shot to Trebeck, and that just repeats. You never get a sense of how big the space is. You don’t think about the space. I think that was the biggest surprise — it was a place I could walk around in and experience.

Filming was really intense. Everyone’s hands were shaking. If you watch the video, you don’t know. You don’t realize how intense it is until you’re onstage and see it as a set, and there’s lights and film and everything. Everyone on the Jeopardy staff is really extroverted, and so you need to be

really extroverted, too. It’s a lot. I was very tired by the end of the first day of filming. I was first call, and even just playing that one game — it was only 30 minutes — was very stressful.

I think the thing I liked most about being on Jeopardy, though, was seeing what a professional film crew does. I’ve done filming in the past — I used to be part of my high school’s film crew for football — so I know everything about how it works, about switching the cuts and the different cameramen. To go to Hollywood, see the soundstages, and see how professional the crew was, and how everyone needs to be in the right place, and how well-oiled the machine was, it felt very weird that I was part of this grand Hollywood film tradition for a TV show.

It also didn’t really hit me that I was going to be on TV until the first viewing party. I watched the episode on my giant TV, and seeing the swooping camera angles and me — I was just like, “What?” Watching it again and seeing the answers I remembered and the answers I didn’t, I was just yelling at the screen like, “Why’d you miss that, why’d you buzz in on that, you didn’t know the answer!”

I would’ve been happy just making the semifinals and being on TV for two days. I was not expecting to win the entire thing. It’s funny because I don’t remember much of the tournament. I remember what happens, but while playing, it’s just so intense. I do trap shooting, and the coach always tells us, “Take one shot at a time. Don’t think about your overall score.” It was very much like that. I was just thinking, “Get this question, get this question right.”

For all of double Jeopardy, I didn’t realize I had a lead. I was pretty worried about Gary the naval guy. He was really aggressive

on the buzzer, especially in the first game, so in the five minutes between the two games, I was like, “Okay, I need to psych myself up, I need to do well and beat him on the buzzer,” and I somehow found the zone during Double Jeopardy. I didn’t realize I was doing so well until I looked up at the end, and then I did all the math, and I was like, “Oh, this is a lockout game!” I tried to come up with the Final Jeopardy answer, but at that point I was just so excited that I had won the whole thing. I had already decided I was going to answer “dank memes” or “spicy memes.” There’s always a chance, if you have a lock-out game, to put down some funny answer, so I just went with the original plan.

I didn’t realize how big of a deal being on the show was until I did it. A lot of people have been reaching out with stories. There was one random person who said, “I have two 14-year-old daughters. They want to do chemical engineering, and they’re really inspired to see that you can do well in academics but also have fun.” Another person told me how they were in a hospital for a family emergency, and they were watching Jeopardy. When my memelord answer came up, they thought it was really funny. It is really weird being a public figure. I’m a part of people’s lives in a way I never expected. I feel really strange to be able to make a difference in people’s lives I think.

It’s also interesting because you go onto social media and you see random people from all over the country either tweeting, “Yeah, go Lilly!” or “I hate Lilly! Why does she roll up her sleeves?” It was very obvious to me, having spent time a lot of on the internet, that if you’re in any place of public position, people are going to hate on you. It was really fun to see that in real life.

I was very publically representing MIT. I’ve had alums from the ’70s email me. President Reif sent me an email. I do student government, so I work with the chancellor and the dean of student life, and they sent nice notes. I appreciated that. My Facebook was blowing up. Every time I was logging in I would have a hundred notifications. I already saw my face on the TV screen in the Infinite. People were coming up to me and saying, “I’m from MIT, I’m so excited to see you on Jeopardy.” I find it crazy that there’s so much school spirit.

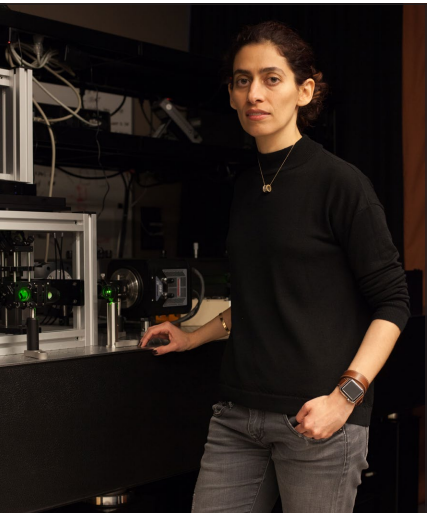
I’m really excited for [Jeopardy’s] Tournament of Champions. Meanwhile, someone made a “Japanese game show” for East Campus bad ideas weekend, and I helped. Japanese game shows have all these environmental hazards. The one that EC made was a wall with a bunch of two by fours sticking out. You stood on the two by fours, and you had to answer trivia questions while the two by fours were being taken out from under your feet. I did that, and my friends saw me helping out, pulling the two by fours out, and they were like, “Do you have a game show problem? You’re back to this!” Slightly different, but it was pretty funny.

Lilly Chin is a member of the class of 2017.

TECH TRANSFERS

Nikta Fakhri


Immigrant members of the MIT community



I grew up in Tehran, Iran. After completing my undergraduate studies at Sharif University of Technology, I came to Rice University as a graduate student. Afterwards, I moved to Göttingen, Germany as a Human Frontier Science Program postdoctoral fellow. I joined the MIT Department of Physics in January 2015. My lab is interested in developing tools for discovering how spatiotemporal patterns arise in active biological materials.

Nikta Fakhri is an Assistant Professor of Physics.

Editor’s note: Tech Transfers is a photo series by Professor Daniel Jackson that features immigrant members of MIT.



Got a lot on your mind?

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Write for Campus Life. join@tech.mit.edu

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News should be _____.



**EVENT**

Furry First Fridays

Relax with four-legged friends from Dog BONES: Therapy Dogs of Massachusetts

March 3, 2-3:30pm
Hayden Library, 14S-100



SPORTS BLITZ

Men's Basketball (21-6) won the NEWMAC championship this week defeating Babson 67-62 and will play Eastern Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA tournament on Friday.

Women's Basketball (20-6) lost a close battle to Smith College in the NEWMAC quarterfinal 70-77 despite a great comeback. Kara Holinski '19 was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Third Team.

Men's Tennis (3-0) defeated Bentley 8-0 this past Wednesday. Tyler Barr '19 was named Singles Player of the Week and the duo Sean Ko '19 and Victor Cheng '20 were named Doubles Team of the Week.

Men's Volleyball (16-3) defeated Lasell College 3-2 on Thursday. Travish Smith '18 lead MIT with 15 kills.

Women's Sailing placed 11th of 18 in this past weekend in the College of the Charleston Women's Regatta.

Track and Field competed in the NEICAAA Championship over the weekend. The women's team claimed 5th among 34 teams and the men's team claimed 20th among 31.



ORIGAMIT

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Deadline:
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Solution to La La Land
from page 6

9	4	5	2	6	1	7	3	8
6	7	1	9	3	8	4	2	5
3	8	2	5	7	4	1	6	9
8	2	4	7	1	3	5	9	6
5	9	6	8	4	2	3	7	1
1	3	7	6	9	5	2	8	4
7	1	8	3	5	6	9	4	2
2	5	9	4	8	7	6	1	3
4	6	3	1	2	9	8	5	7

Solution to Moonlight
from page 6

6	3	2	4	1	5
5	2	1	3	6	4
1	4	3	5	2	6
4	1	6	2	5	3
3	6	5	1	4	2
2	5	4	6	3	1


Solution to Carving Board
from page 6

D	O	S	E	M	A	N	E	A	C	C	R	A
R	U	L	E	O	D	O	R	D	A	M	U	P
I	C	E	L	A	N	D	E	R	A	T	O	N
P	H	D	W	E	L	L	S	G	E	N	T	S
	P	A	T	E		S	I	R				
C	A	P	R	I	S	O	A	P	O	P	E	R
A	L	L	O	T	S	M	B	A	I	M	A	M
K	I	A	S	I	D	E	A	S	L	A	N	E
E	S	T	A	N	A	G	M	A	L	I	G	N
S	T	O	N	E	C	R	A	B	B	A	L	E
	D	Y	E		A	C	E	R				
S	P	A	C	E	S	P	R	A	T	G	A	S
C	A	R	O	L	W	O	O	D	S	T	O	C
A	L	I	N	E	A	N	N	E	S	A	R	I
B	E	A	S	T	T	E	S	T	P	L	E	D


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